

What is claimed is:

1. A system, comprising:
  - a plurality of open shelves containing bins for carrying items, said items having indicia associated therewith;
  - a handheld device programmed to:
    - read the indicia associated with an item for which a restock is desired;
    - receive quantity information associated with the read indicia; and
    - transfer the information associated with the read indicia and the quantity information to enable a restocking package to be prepared.
2. The system of claim 1 additionally comprising a cradle for receiving said handheld device, and wherein said transferring step includes the step of downloading to a central database when the handheld device is stored in said cradle.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein said indicia associated with an item includes one of indicia associated with a bin, indicia on a package containing the item, and indicia on the item.
4. The system of claim 1 wherein said indicia includes a barcode.